

Claims:

1. (original) A cushioning member comprising:  
a pair of base members disposed in a manner opposed to each other and having a band shape; and  
a plurality of pile yarns bridging between the base members, the cushioning member being characterized in that:  
some of the pile yarns are cut at an intermediate portion between the base members to form first cut pile yarns and second cut pile yarns, the first and second cut pile yarns facing each other with a cut in between.
2. (original) The cushioning member according to claim 1, wherein the pile yarns bulge in both lateral directions of the base members, and wherein the degree of the bulging increases toward the intermediate portion between the base members.
3. (currently amended) The cushioning member according the claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the pile yarns that are located toward one side from the center in the direction of width of the base members are cut at the intermediate portion between the base members.
4. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the number of the pile yarns set per inch along the length of the base members is 1000 to 10000.
5. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein weather resistance is given to the base members or the pile yarns.
6. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein each of the pile yarns has a single yarn fineness of 5 to 110 decitex.

7. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the pile yarns are formed by multi-filament yarns or mono-filament yarns, and wherein each of the pile yarns has a fineness of 100 to 2200 decitex.

8. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, further comprising a film, wherein the film bridges between the base members to extend along a longitudinal direction of the base members.

9. (original) The cushioning member according to claim 8, wherein the film is substantially located at the center in the width direction of the base members.

10. (original) The cushioning member according to claim 9, wherein the first and second cut pile yarns are located at one side of the film, and non-cut pile yarns are located at the other side of the film.

11. (original) The cushioning member according to claim 8, wherein the film is located outward of the pile yarns.

12. (original) The cushioning member according to claim 11, wherein, at a side opposite from the cut, the film covers the non-cut pile yarns.

13. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8 to 11~~, wherein the film is made a polypropylene sheet.

14. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8 to 13~~, wherein the cushioning member is located between two airtight space forming members that are connected to each other to form an airtight space, wherein one of the base members is attached to one of the airtight space forming members, and the other base member is attached to the other airtight space forming member.

15. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the cushioning member is located between a guiding member and a moving member movable along the guiding member, wherein one of the base members is attached to the guiding member, and the other base member is in contact with the moving member.

16. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the cushioning member is located between a guiding member and a sheet-like or plate-like moving member movable along the guiding member, and wherein the base members are attached to the guiding member, and the cut receives an edge portion of the moving member.

17. (currently amended) The cushioning member according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the cushioning member is attached to an edge portion of sheet-like or plate-like member, and wherein the cut receives the edge portion of the sheet-like or plate-like member.

18. (original) A cushioning member for a shutter apparatus, the shutter apparatus including a pair of support frames opposed to each other, and a shutter supported by the support frames to move along the support frames, wherein the shutter is capable of being wound at one end, and each side of the shutter is supported by the corresponding one of the support frames, wherein the cushioning member being disposed between each of the support frames and the corresponding side of the shutter, the cushioning member comprising:

a pair of base members disposed in a manner opposed to each other and having a band shape; and

a plurality of pile yarns bridging between the base members, the cushioning member being characterized in that:

one of the base members is attached to each of the support frames, and the other base member is in contact with the shutter; and

some of the pile yarns are cut at an intermediate portion between the base members to form first cut pile yarns and second cut pile yarns, the first and second cut pile yarns facing each other with a cut in between.

19. (original) A method of manufacturing a cushioning member, characterized by:  
a wrapping step of wrapping pile yarns around surfaces of an endless band while rotating the endless band;

a base member supply step of supplying to the pile yarns wound around the endless band of pair of base members which are band-shaped from opposite lateral sides of the endless band;

a bonding step of bringing the supplied base members into contact with the pile yarns, and bonding the base members to the pile yarns by using ultrasonic waves;

a cutting step of cutting the pile yarns located on one of inner and outer circumferences of the endless band at intermediate portion between the base members, thereby forming a cut in the pile yarns; and

a separating step of separating the pile yarns together with the base members from the endless band via the cut.

20. (original) The manufacturing method according to claim 19, further comprising a film supply step performed prior to the wrapping step, wherein, in the film supply step, a film is supplied to a circumferential surface of the endless band that is opposite from the side on which the pile yarns to be cut in the cutting step are provided, such that the film covers the circumferential surface, and wherein, in the bonding step, the pile yarns and the film are bonded to the base members.

21. (original) The manufacturing method according to claim 19, further comprising a film supply step performed between the wrapping step and the base member supply step, wherein, in the film supply step, a film is supplied to a circumferential surface of the endless band that is opposite from the side on which the pile yarns to be cut in the cutting step are provided, such that the film covers the pile yarns on the circumferential surface,

and wherein, in the bonding step, the pile yarns and the film are bonded to the base members.